

THIS TEACHER HELD ON THEFTS

R. B. May Sue City



Dr. Howard A. Wood

DR. WOOD CITIZEN OF YEAR

Dr. Howard A. Wood was named Torrance's "Citizen of the Year" for 1957 at impressive ceremonies Tuesday night at the annual Banquet of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

An overflow crowd of over 500 civic leaders was on hand to see the Laughon-Whyte Memorial Award presented to Dr. Wood in recognition of his contribution to the people of Torrance. The award was presented by A. E. Thompson, 1957 Chamber President.

The winner was the first president of the Torrance Unified School District's Board of Education and is given credit for much of the progress of the highly regarded school district. Dr. Wood is past president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and a past Lt. Governor. He is also recipient of Scoutings' highest award, the Silver Beaver, and has held many important posts in Boy Scout administration.

Dr. Wood is a member of the Board of Directors of both the Torrance Memorial Hospital and the Riviera Hospital, and a Councilor for the Los Angeles County Medical Association. He is also a director of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Guest speaker at the Annual event was J. Roger Deas of American Can Company, New York City, who delivered an address titled "Community Service—Key to Success."

O. R. Trueblood was installed as President, Fred W. Mill and R. S. Pyle, Vice-Presidents; J. H. Paget, Treasurer; and Dick Fitzgerald, Secretary.

Directors include: Keith Border, George A. Bradford, John A. Ebbinghouse, Sy Frank, James M. Hall, Glenn Koger, G. Henry Miller, George Naylor, Clifford Nickle, Arthur O. Otsea, Darwin D. Parrish, Jack Phillips, C. N. Rucker, Dean Sears, John Stretch, Howard A. Wood.

Completing the program was the presentation of "Community Service Plaques" to 15 Service Club Presidents of 1957.

Torrance Press Ad Brings Calls

Mrs. Mary Wright was one of the busiest telephone answerers in town Thursday.

When the resident of 25527 Allene Ave., Lomita inserted classified ads in the Torrance Press to rent a house, she received more than 25 inquiries and had no problem finding a tenant.

If you have something you want to sell, rent, buy or swap, call the Torrance Press at FA 8-2345, and a helpful ad-taker will give you immediate professional assistance.



NEW PRESIDENT—O. R. Trueblood was installed as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at annual banquet Tuesday night.

Howard Area Merger Move Hearing Closed

A resolution to annex the 15-acre Howard Industrial Addition was ordered by the City Council Tuesday after it closed a hearing at which no protests were made.

But Councilman Robert Jahn said he may oppose the annexation if he finds that the city will inherit a flood problem in the area located on the east side of Crenshaw Blvd., south of Lomita Blvd.

"We got enough flood conditions now. The place is a regular swimming pool," Jahn said.

Rain Cause of Some Flooding

An inch of rain which drenched the city Monday night caused several streets to flood but caused no major hardships such as were brought by last week's storm.

A total of 1.02 inch of rain was recorded by the fire department during a six-hour span. This brought the season's total to 13.32 inches, more than double the amount of 48 inches recorded last year to date.

Pumping was required at two flows which threatened to overflow.

These were at El Dorado and Maple ave., and at Paseo de Gracia.

Water stood a foot deep at 182nd st. and Palda ave. Flooded conditions existed at Arlington and Sartori; Torrance Blvd., and Madrid, on Crenshaw south of Lomita Blvd.; on Crenshaw between Redondo Beach Blvd. and 166th st.; 190th st. and Western ave.

Residents Ask Storm Drain Aid

Warning that Torrance faces legal action unless it stops dumping quantities of storm waters into Redondo Beach, was received by the City Council Tuesday.

City Attorney Frank L. Perry of Redondo Beach charged that Torrance has pumped vast quantities of water into Redondo Beach streets and termed the city's action "not only unneighborly, but unlawful and negligent."

At the same time, property owners on the 100 block of Paseo de Gracia served notice that they want immediate action to divert the flood waters from their street.

"If Redondo Beach gets an injunction to stop pumping of water, we'll be wiped out," declared John Popovich, of 421 Camino del Campo.

The City Council ordered City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop to meet with Redondo Beach officials to determine the cost of installing a 30-inch drain to the ocean.

Councilman Robert Jahn, also asked City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier for a ruling whether it is legal for Torrance to use general fund money for a drain to help one area.

Popovich asked the city to retain a private engineering firm to determine what can be done to help the drainage situation. "We can't afford to have our homes and health jeopardized," Popovich said.

Bishop estimated that construction of a drain to the ocean would cost between \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Francis P. Bartley, of 142 Paseo de Gracia, said that El Retiro Park was originally a dump, but that the city has now diverted water from it so that it spills into streets.

"We asked relief long before the people in Hollywood Riviera. It would be gross miscarriage of justice if we are not given priority," insisted Doug Robbins.

Alvin Lowi, of 4018 Merrill St., had another complaint.

He charged that water being pumped into the Southwood city is mixed with sewage. The sample of yellowish fluid he brought to the meeting will be given a bacterial analysis by the water department.

"I don't mind honest water, but I object to this," Lowi declared. "It smells like a Kansas City stockyard around my house."

Councilman Nicholas O. Drale said that the only proper way for the city to solve its flood control problems will be the formation of an assessment district.

Redondo Beach complained that dumping of water has resulted in damage in the beach city, and warned of possible lawsuits which may be filed against Torrance.

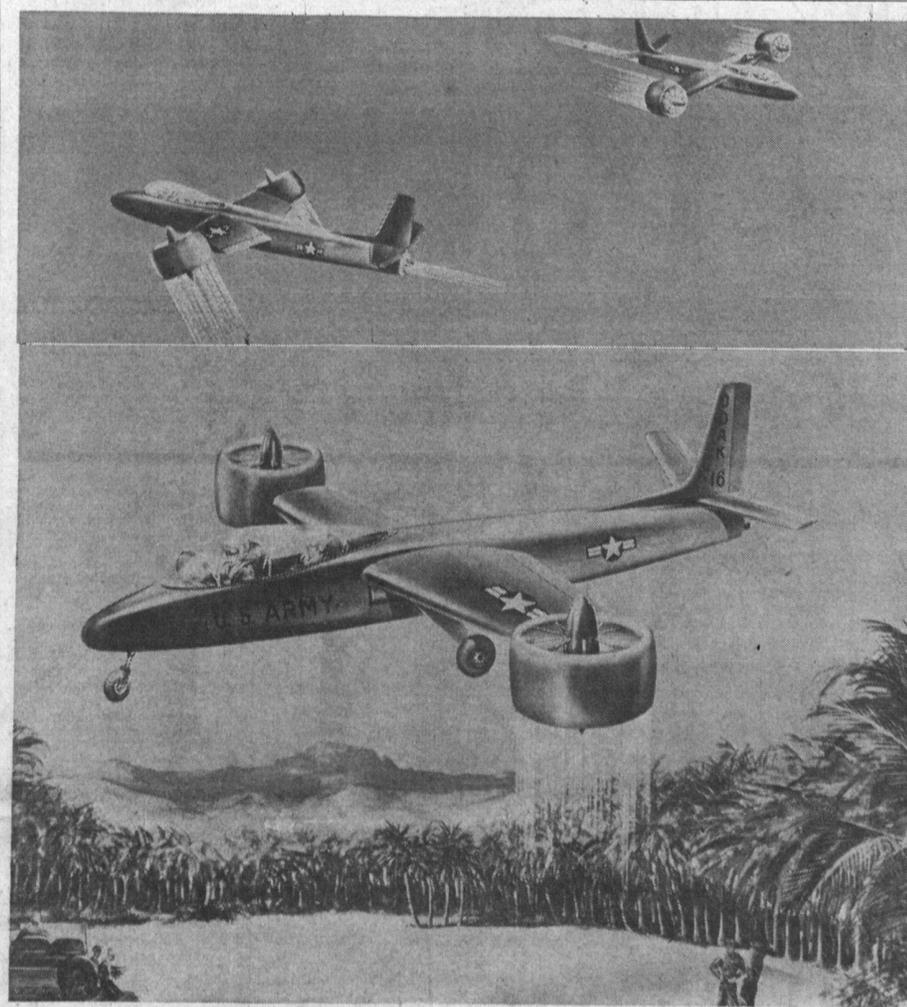
Set City Share of Drainage

Torrance will receive \$2,490,000 of flood relief if a second phase of a county-wide bond issue is approved.

The estimate of this city's share of the \$219,743,000 bond issue now under consideration by the Board of Supervisors, was made by Col. H. E. Hedger, director of the County Flood Control District.

The amount is a sharp reduction from the city's own estimate of critically or urgently needed storm drains.

City officials submitted a total of \$8,270,070 of storm drain needs. Of that amount, \$6,571,554 is critically or urgently needed.



REVOLUTIONARY AIRCRAFT—Ground testing for the U. S. Army Doak Model 16 VTOL research vehicle, designed by Doak Aircraft, Inc., of Torrance, began this week. The aircraft is capable of converting its flight from vertical take-off to horizontal flights. Artist shows a Doak 16 rising from a small jungle clearing. Next, the propeller ducts are rotating toward horizontal position, middle. Finally (at top) the propellers are horizontal and the Doak is off at high speed as a normal airplane.

Shidler to Seek New Term

Municipal Judge John A. Shidler today announced his intention to seek reelection.



Judge John A. Shidler

The jurist, one of three judges assigned to the South Bay Municipal Court, is presently sitting on the bench of the Torrance branch.

Judge Shidler, 46, has resided in Torrance since 1923. He has served as judge since 1941.

He graduated from Redondo Union High School, received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University and his law degree from Loyola University.

He was appointed to the city police court in 1941; to the South Bay Justice Court in 1947, and was elected municipal judge in 1952.

"South Bay has held more jury trials than any other court in the State except Los Angeles which has 47 judges," Judge Shidler pointed out.

He explained that the frequency of jury trial is because defendants are given ample advice on their legal rights.

Judge Shidler and his family reside at 317 Camino de las Colinas, Torrance.

Revolutionary Plane Developed by Doak

Ground-testing began Tuesday for the U. S. Army-Doak Model 16 VTOL Research Vehicle, a new, revolutionary aircraft which is designed to take off and land vertically like a helicopter, but operates in the air as a conventional airplane with long range and high speed, it was announced today. Designed and built by the Doak Aircraft Company, Inc., Torrance, for the U. S. Army Transportation Research and Engineering Command, the Doak 16 has ducted propellers on the wing tips which rotate through 90 degrees to convert in flight from vertical take-off and hovering to normal flight. It is powered by one Lycoming T-53 shaft turbine engine.

No airports or specialized take-off or landing equipment are required. The pilot simply rotates the propeller ducts to a vertical position for take-off, then returns them to normal horizontal position in the air. To land, the propellers again are turned vertical. The entire airplane remains in conventional horizontal attitude at all times.

Where airfields are available, the Doak 16 will take off and land horizontally as a conventional aircraft. Then it can carry extra fuel tanks and therefore travel even greater distances, since horizontal take-off requires less power and enables the airplane to lift more weight.

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Delay Sought on Bonds

A proposal to postpone the election on the \$3,000,000 recreation bond issue until the June 3 Primary election, will be made today at an adjourned meeting of the City Council.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier will advise the Council that the measure not be placed on the municipal election ballot because there is doubt that there remains enough time.

"The time period is so close that it's possible the bond attorneys may rule it out," the attorney said.

"If we make a mistake here, we'll have to start all over again," Remelmeier added.

He said he will attempt to talk the Council into holding up the election and make sure that all legal requirements have been met in case of challenge.

The Council also will discuss airport operations, leases and insurance at today's meeting at 4 p.m.

Airport Hotel Studied by Council Group

A Council committee will negotiate an option with a private builder to construct a \$1,500,000 hotel and terminal at the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Plans for constructing the buildings were proposed by Erwin E. Wilson, who said he will pay \$1000 for a 90-day option during which he will arrange financing of the structure.

He proposed to lease the land at the airport from the city for 50 years.

RECOMMEND PLANE RADIOS
Compulsory installation of radio equipment on planes stationed at Torrance Municipal Airport in 60 days was recommended to the City Council by the Airport Commission.

Teacher Held On Burglery

Preliminary hearing of a Torrance High School teacher charged with stealing more than \$1600 of school equipment will be held tomorrow before Municipal Judge John A. Shidler.

Robert E. Prowell, 35, who has taught science for six years and was described as "well liked," was arrested Friday on burglary charges.

Student Talks
The arrest was made by Lt. D. C. Cook, head of the Torrance police juvenile bureau, after the teacher was implicated by a former student, John Crump Zamerzia, 19, of 2629 Cabrillo.

Cook said that Prowell allegedly asked Zamerzia to steal hi-fi equipment from the high school on Valentine's Day, 1957, and paid him \$40.

Another count accuses the teacher of taking a calculating machine and three adding machines from the school a month later.

Recover Loot
Police said the hi-fi equipment was recovered in an Anaheim home. One of the office machines was assertedly found in Prowell's auto.

"I'm emotionally upset about this whole thing. I had nothing to gain. I've never been in jail before," Prowell said.

The teacher remained in custody until Monday afternoon when he posted \$500 bond.

Asked to Quit
Prowell, who is not married, resides at 2800 Chestnut ave., Long Beach.

School officials have asked him to resign his post.

The case broke open as result of horse-stealing charges brought against Zamerzia, a student at Cal Poly.

Cook said that during questioning on that case, Zamerzia volunteered the information which led to Prowell's arrest.



Robert Prowell

Burglars Hit School Offices

Burglars ransacked the administration building of the Torrance Unified School District Tuesday night, and attempted to crack a safe at Torrance High School.

More than 40 rooms were entered in the administrative office, with police still compiling a list of stolen property.

Education Day for Business Industry Firms

The second planning session for Torrance's first city-wide business - Industry - Education Day will be held today in the City Council Chamber.

Chairman Fred Bruner of the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce said that representatives of Dow Chemical Corporation and Public Finance Corporation will conduct actual demonstrations of the type of program they will offer Torrance's Teachers. Brunner added that over 800 teachers will spend the day of March 17 as guests of Torrance Business and Industrial firms.

A few more firms are needed to make the event a total success, Chamber officials pointed out.

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Bids Opened for Torrance Court House

Bids for the construction of the new Torrance court house were opened yesterday by the Board of Supervisors.

The building to be constructed in the Civic Center, will contain 10,112 square feet and will house a municipal courtroom, judges chambers, offices for the Marshal, District Attorney, Sheriff and Clerk, as well as a jury room and other facilities necessary for the operation of the building.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace said that construction will begin two weeks following award of contract.

Book Burglary Suspect

Fredrick M. Smith, 19, was booked on burglary charges here after he was returned from Cedar Rapids by Torrance police.

Officers are questioning him in connection with two tool burglaries which were reported two weeks ago.